

ber of such conditions will not be characterized by hypophosphatemia. There is reason to be hopeful that careful clinical and biochemical definitions of these anticipated conditions will enable many of those affected to be successfully treated.

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## Physicians' Fees— Not Too Bad a Record

A RECENT COMMUNICATION in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by G. L. Glandon and J. R. Werner<sup>1</sup> reviews physicians' practice experience in the decade of the 1970's. Data were collected by the AMA Center for Health Services Research and Development in 1970 and 1980, with particular attention to average incomes, expenses and fees. These are considered in relation to the real gross national product, which declined in the 1970's, and the cost of living, which doubled.

While physicians' net incomes are projected to have increased from \$41,800 in 1970 to \$80,000 by the end of 1980, their real income in uninflated dollars changed little if at all. Practice expenses rose from \$24,300 in 1970 to a projected \$54,500 in 1980. As gross income increased practice expenses rose commensurately.

During the 1970's physicians' fees were the subject of considerable attention and criticism by government and others. However, the facts appear to show that the real income of physicians did not rise and in fact remained essentially unchanged. This is not too bad a record.

—MSMW

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